

ORNBP Staff Bios

Calvin Roberts, P.E.

Calvin Roberts is the Engineer of Research and National Best Practices for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). He was assigned to this position in September 2005, when this office was created. Mr. Roberts responsibilities include the developing and conducting of research activities with the strategies, objectives, and policies of the department; developing policy and procedure, initiating specific projects, participating in research sponsored from non-MDOT funding sources, and providing liaison with executive, university, and legislative personnel.

Mr. Roberts was nationally recruited by MDOT in 1985 as the state's Engineer of Traffic and Safety, where he held that position for six years. For two and one-half years he held the position of Executive for the Office of Management Assessment. Mr. Roberts held the position of Engineer of Materials and Technology for three and one-half years. For eight years, Mr. Roberts was MDOT's Engineer of Maintenance.

Prior to joining MDOT, Mr. Roberts was Vice-President of an engineering consultant firm in New York, New York. His 34 years of experience includes a diverse background in marketing professional engineering services, management, planning, design, construction and maintenance for major highway facilities, research in the private and public sector on a national level, environmental and energy studies concerning all types of land-use development, and a wide variety of transportation and traffic engineering projects.

Mr. Roberts is a Registered Professional Engineer in the states of Michigan, New York, and Connecticut. He earned his Master's of Science degree in Civil Engineering (Transportation Engineering) from Pennsylvania State University in 1973, obtained a Bachelor's of Engineering degree in Civil Engineering from New York University in 1971, and an Associated (A.S.S.) degree in Electrical Engineering from Norwalk State Technical College in 1968. Mr. Roberts taught civil engineering and architectural courses for six years.

Mr. Roberts is an active member of several Transportation Research Board committees and served for seven years as the Secretary of the Sign Technical Committee on the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. For the past fifteen years, he has chaired the Pennsylvania State University's "Committee on Minority Engineering Activities in the College of Engineering," member of Pennsylvania State's Industrial and Professional Advisory Council, Civil and Environmental Engineering; Chair, Industrial and Professional Advisory Council Executive Committee Year 2001 for the College of Engineering; honored as a 2001 Outstanding Engineering Alumnus of Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania State University's "Multicultural Engineering Program-Founders Award of Distinction," MEP 20th Anniversary, September 20, 2005; listed in Marquis Who's Who in Finance and Industry, 1992/1993; and Who's Who in Engineering and Science, 1996/1997. Mr. Roberts was approved as Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University to develop and teach the course: "The Impact of Federal Environmental Policy/Regulation – A State Department of Transportation Prospective."

Dr. Sudhakar Kulkarni

I started working with MDOT in March of 1967, as an engineer in the Bridge Design section. As a design engineer, I participated in design of steel and concrete bridges. After about twelve years, I was assigned to automation area that supported computer-aided design and drafting. My next assignment was a structural research engineer with the Materials and Technology Division, followed by appointment as state bridge engineer. I served about twelve years in that capacity. During this time, I had opportunity to work with AASHTO, TRB and NCHRP. My next assignment was in the area of Geotechnical and Geo-environment, followed by assignment as a University Research Administrator. I have been working in the research area for last several years. Currently, I am assisting in management of State Planning and Research – Part II program for the office of Research and National Best Practices.

André D. Clover, P.E.

André Clover began his appointment as ORNBP's Administrative Engineer for National Best Practices and Legislative Initiatives in August 2005. He moved to this assignment after 18 months as the Administrative Engineer for Construction and Technology Division in Lansing.

André began his MDOT career in 1976 as an Engineer in Training. After leaving MDOT to attend Michigan State University for a Master Degree in Civil Engineering and working six years with private consulting firms; he returned to MDOT in 1984.

During his Department service between January 1984 and January 2004; André performed Automotive and Fleet administration duties, was the District Construction Engineer (University Region), and managed the Operational Services Area and Statewide Specialty Crews in the Maintenance Division.

Angela Nelson

Angela Nelson is the executive assistant to the engineer for the Office of Research and National Best Practices, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Calvin Roberts, P.E. She started this position in February 2006. She came to MDOT from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), where she helped establish the Office of Regional Skill Alliances, an economic initiative from Governor Granholm. Ms. Nelson was with DLEG for one year. She also worked for the Michigan Department of Environmental Services, Water Bureau, from December 2002 until February 2005. She began her state employment in the Inland Lakes and Remedial Action Unit and advanced to working at the Environmental Laboratory before going to DLEG.

Prior to beginning state employment, she worked at Michigan State University (MSU). Four of her five years on campus were spent at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. She began in the Unit III Office, working with interns. She later advanced to the Statewide Campus System Office where she performed training support activities for the residents and fellows. In addition to these offices, she spent one year as the serials clerk in MSU's William C. Gast Business Library.